

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 151536Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5281

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9610

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SU, SA

SUBJECT: SADAT/NUMEIRI TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. AS DEPT AWARE, PRESIDENT NUMEIRI ARRIVED JULY 13 (ONE DAY EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED) ON WHAT WAS OILED AS TWO-DAY VISIT. HE HAS MET WITH SADAT, PRIMIN MAMDUH SALEM AND GAMASY IN ALEXANDRIA DURING PAST TWO DAYS. FAHMY WAS SUPPOSED TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS, BUT WAS KEPT AWAY BY SPECIAL AL SESSION ON LEBANON. APART FROM GENERAL PRESS COMMENTARY OF AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SUDANESE SIDES, THERE HAS BEEN NO HARD INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE OF TALKS.

2. ALTHOUGH NUMEIRI WAS EXPECTED LEAVE TODAY, FAHMY TOLD AMBASSADOR IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS DECIDED YESTERDAY THAT THEY WOULD JOINTLY TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA ON SATURDAY, JULY 17, TO CONFER WITH KING HALID, PRINCE FAHD AND OTHER SENIOR SAUDI OFFICIALS. NEWS OF TRIP STILL BEING TIGHTLY HELD, BUT SADAT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FAHMY AND GAMASY.

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EGYPTIAN PARTY EXPECTS RETURN TO EGYPT MONDAY, JULY 19.

3. GAMASY'S CONSTANT PARTICIPATION IN SADAT/NUMEIRI TALKS HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE LOCAL SPECULATION. FACT THAT HE WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TO SAUDI ARABIA WILL NEIGHEN THAT SPECULATION. OSTENSIBLY, SADAT/NUMEIRI DISCUSSIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON BUTTRESSING NUMEIRI'S POSITION IN SUDAN, ESPECIALLY AFTER RECENT ABORTIVE COUP. EGYPTIANS CONSIDER NUMEIRI "ERRATIC", BUT THE BEST THEY HAVE IN SUDAN. THEY HAVE A PHOBIA ON PREVENTING A COMMUNIST DOMINATED GOVERNMENT FROM EMERGING IN THE SUDAN. THEY ARE DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT NUMEIRI'S SHAKY POSITION AND SUDANESE PUBLIC APATHY TOWARDS HIM. WE SURMISE, THEREFORE, THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OFFSNEXPECTED TRIP TO SAUDI ARABI IS TO DEVELOP COMMON EGYPTIAN/SAUDI/SUDANESE POSTURE TO STRENGTHEN NUMEIRI. MOREOVER, GIVEN LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN PROMOTING ABORTIVE COUP AND STRONG EGYPTIAN AVERSION TO QADHAFI, WAYS AND MEANS OF COUNTERING QADHAFI-INSPIRED SUBVERSION ALSO LIKELY FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN TALKS.

4. NJMEIRI CLEARLY REQUIRES BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY HELP. SAUDIS CAN PROVIDE THE FORMER; THE EGYPTIANS, WHILE NOT ANXIOUS TO COMMIT TROOPS TO SDAN, ARE PREPARED TO DO SO IF NECESSARY. THEY ARE ALSO PREPARED PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE SUDAN, ALTHOUGH WHAT THEY HAVE IS OBSOLETE AND OF MINIMUM USE.
EILTS

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